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Tito's Pressure On Serb Party Producing Mixed Results

On Wednesday, the secretariat of the Serb League of Communists announced that it was calling a committee session in the next few days to "take concrete measures" on Tito's criticisms of the political situation in Serbia. The secretariat, however, also endorsed the Serb party leadership, in direct defiance of Tito's expressed desire that it be purged of those opposing his party recentralization program. This response seems to indicate that Serb party boss Nikezic, as of Wednesday, still had control over the regime but might be under pressure from his subordinates to modify his opposition to Tito's line.

Mirko Canadanovic, head of the Vojvodina provincial party and ex-officio member of the Serb central committee, yesterday issued a denial that Tito's speech was an attack on Nikezic but simultaneously gave full support for Tito's assessment of the Serb political scene. This tactical arabesque preceeded Canadanovic's departure for a visit in Hungary that may well keep him from choosing sides at the forthcoming central committee session.

Canadanovic is an ambitious politician with proven ability for gaining the limelight without prejudicing his case with any factions. He is certainly a candidate for Nikezic's post, but his vacillation at this key juncture may lower his stock with Tito. From Tito's view, what may be required in Serbia after Nikezic leaves is a completely loyal old friend, someone like Mijalko Todorovic, who now heads the national assembly but who has held key party posts in the not so distant past. There are many others who also fill this bill, but Todorovic seems the most prominent.

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Hungarian Economic Delegation Is In Moscow

The annual autumn session of the Soviet-Hungarian Intergovernmental Economic Committee is now underway in the Soviet capital. The Hungarian delegation--headed by Deputy Premier (and CEMA representative) Peter Valyi and including the Ministers

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of Foreign Trade, Metallurgy, and Heavy Industry--will meet with its Soviet counterpart to review economic cooperation efforts. The Hungarians especially will eye long-term co-operation after 1975, a subject of some heated discussion this year.

This session is unlikely to publicize any substantive breakthroughs. These probably await other high-level bilateral meetings scheduled during the next several months. The 1973 trade agreement should be signed in late November, perhaps in the presence of Premiers Kosygin and Fock, who are supposed to meet before the end of the year to smooth over their stormy March discussions. To crown it all with due ceremony, a Soviet party-government delegation, presumably to be led by Brezhnev, is slated to visit Budapest around the turn of the year. The original announcement of this happening, released after Kadar's February visitation in Moscow, scheduled it for before the end of the year, but current indicators suggest that the trip could easily slip into 1973.

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Jaroszewicz To Pay Official Visit To Sweden

Polish Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz's official visit to Sweden from 23-25 October will climax several months of effort by protocol officers of both countries to work out mutually satisfactory arrangements for the visit. The Poles, apparently dismayed because Swedish preparations did not meet their high, but ill-defined expectations, are sending a large and high-powered delegation including three politburo members, three ministers, several vice ministers and a supporting staff of about 20. The Swedes are a bit perplexed about Polish upgrading of what they originally thought was a routine, fairly ceremonial trip (presumably returning the visit of the Swedish Premier to Poland in November 1967). Stockholm claims to have no "Polish policy," and maintains that, despite the panoply of stars, no significant practical results will stem from the visit.

The Poles presumably see the visit as an opportunity to demonstrate once again a more independent and pragmatic diplomatic policy toward the western world.

In addition to seeking expanded economic ties with the Nordic countries, however, Warsaw also seems to be pushing a good neighbor policy with Stockholm. The Poles have been actively cultivating nearly all the Scandinavian countries during the past year. For example, the defense minister visited Finland in June, and the foreign minister visited Finland in February and Norway

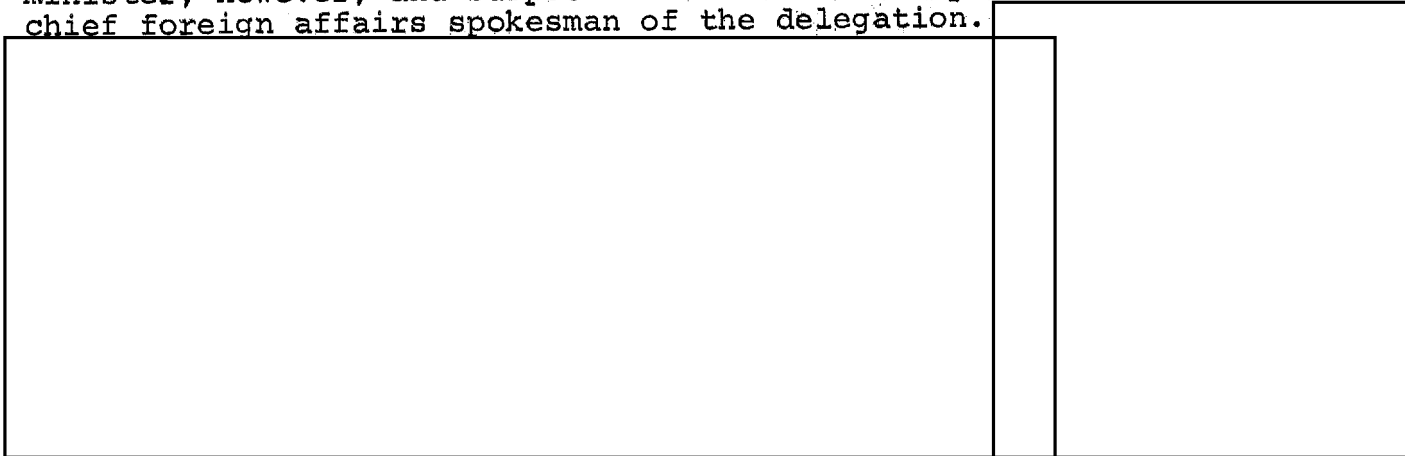
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in June. Party boss Gierek, in a party congress speech last December, called for all Baltic states to join in fighting pollution in Baltic waters, regulating shipping and fishing and "ensuring lasting peace in this region."

The inclusion in the delegation of politburo member Franciszek Szlachcic, who is currently considered second only to Gierek in Polish politics, has raised a few eyebrows. The Poles claim that he was included because, as an intimate of Gierek, he could discuss the possibilities of a future Gierek visit to Sweden. We note the absence in the party of the foreign minister, however, and suspect that Szlachcic may also be the chief foreign affairs spokesman of the delegation. 25X1



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